Copy to D.D(GSA)
Section V
18/9.

15 (W)

TOP SECRET - 1 - TICOM/I-91

P.O.W. INTERROGATION REPORT

GENERAL MAJOR ROBERT K. H. SCHLAKE

Chief of Communications in the Main Office of the Ordnungspolizei, Ministry of the Interior

Attached is report of specialised interrogation by Capt. J. K. Lively and 1st Lt. E. Whitney at SAIC on 18 August 45 of the above prisoner; report of preliminary interrogation carried out at U.S. 7th Army on 16 July, 45 is appended.

TICOM
16 Sept 45

No. of pages. 5

DISTRIBUTION

British

D.D.3
D.D.4
D.D.(N.S.)
D.D.(M.W.)
D.D.(A.S.)
Lt. Col Leathem
Cdr. Tandy
Major Morgan
Miss Mortimer (2)

U.S.

Op-20-G (2) (via Lt.Cdr.Manson)
G-2 (via Lt.Col. Hilles)
A.S.A. (3) (via Major Seaman)
Director, S.I.D. USFET
(via Lt. Col. Johnson)
Col. Lewis Powell, USSTAF

TICOM

Chairman
S.A.C. (2)
Cdr. Bacon
Lt. Col. Johnson
Major Seaman
Lt. Cdr. Manson
Capt. Cowan
Lt. Fehl
Ticom Files (2)

ADDITIONAL

S.A.C. for Section V.

SCHLAKE, Robert K.H., Generalmajor of Regular Police, Chief of Communications in the Main Office of the Ordnungspolizei, Ministry of Interior.

Subject was interrogated on August 18, 1945 at SAIC by Captain James K. Lively and 1st Lt. Edward Whitney.

Personal Data

8 May 1893 Born in Karlsruhe

1914 Completed junior college in Berlin

1914-1918 1st Lt in Signal Corps

1919-33 Communications officer in Police Depts of Beuten, Breslau and Berlin

1933-45 Chief of radio and communications in Ministry of Interior.

Subject joined the NSDAP in 1938 and the ALLGEMEINE SS in 1943, receiving a rank equivalent to his police rank, BRIF (Brig.Gen.).

Knowledge Brief.

Subject was stated in SAIC/PIR/179 dated 16 July 1945 to have information concerning:

a) Communications system of the Regular Police in Germany and occupied lands. (Extensive information on this subject drawn from SCHLAKE and others is contained in SAIC/CIR/3 dated 1 July 1945).

b) Personalities of Regular Police in Berlin.

c) Radio intelligence and interception exercised by police in Germany. Interrogation by TICOM officers was directed exclusively to this subject.

Radio Intercept.

Asked to comment on the radio intercept service carried on by the German police, S. drew a distinction between FUNKABWEHR and FUNKAUFKLAERUNG. Funkabwehr, which was the task of the German police, had to do with the observation and D/F'ing of enemy agents' and all clandestine transmitters (short-wave), whereas Funkaufklaerung, which was a military commitment, had to do with the location and identification of enemy military W/T stations.

The police radio intercept service was established about 1927-28. Up till about 1935-6-7 there were connexions of sorts with RLM/FA, but thereafter no relations at all. When asked to expand on this point, S. was either unable or unwilling to do so. With the outbreak of the war police Funkabwehr was put under OKW.

Funkabwehr by the Ordnungspolizei was carried on in Germany,

/Norway

Norway, the Protectorate, Holland and Poland. The O.P. did not operate in the Balkans, and in France, they shared operations with the Wehrmacht which had an Aussenstelle in Paris.

Funkabwehr had fixed D/F stations at Berlin, Tilsit, Vienna, Oldenburg and Bodensee (Friedrichshafen ?). Its Central office (Funkmessleitstelle) was located at Berlin/ Spandau. The Zentrale was connected by telephone with all D/F stations and by teleprinter with all intercept stations. Intercept stations were located at or near the D/F stations.

Asked how the intercept stations knew what frequencies to watch, S. stated that frequencies to be monitored were as a basic rule allocated by OKW. There were certain defined nets which they were told to observe. Allocations of frequencies were made perhaps every two weeks. There was usually one search-intercept installation (Suchplatz) located with every intercept station. Apart from the directives issued by OKW, S. states he has no knowledge as to how traffic or transmitters were identified as of interest to OKW or SD.

Processing of Radio Intelligence Findings.

D/F findings and intercepted traffic were after "preliminary evaluation" (Vorauswertung) forwarded to OKW. S. claims to have no knowledge concerning the techniques of evaluation and referred to one of his junior officers, a Major Fischer (last known at Spandau) who was the specialist in this field.

The O.P. did not carry on any cryptographic work. All intercepted traffic was forwarded to OKW for analysis and solution. S. states that he has no idea what success was achieved in solution.

Throughout the interrogation on this point S. was at pains to assure his interrogators that he and his branch of the O.P. were technicians pure and simple. The utilization of their findings was, he stated, the responsibility of the Abwehr.

Equipment used by the German Police

With regard to the equipment used by the O.P. for Funkabwehr S. had only very general knowledge and referred to Oberst GRUBE and again to the above-mentioned Major FISCHER.

For intercept the stations in general used whatever they could get. They had Tornisterempfaenger, Phillips Empfaenger and the army intercept set (Heereshorchempfaenger) developed by Heereswaffenamt (Wa Pruef) (S. did not know which brance of Wa Pruef).

At fixed D/F stations Adcockgeraet was used. For short-range D/F'ing (Nahfeldpeilung) stations used Telefunkenpeilgeraet, which could be installed in a vehicle. Mention was made also of KAPSCH, WIEN and a Guertelpeilgeraet. The latter set was worn on a belt and supported by a shoulder strap. The agent employing the Guertelgeraet wore his coat over the set in order to avoid being conspicuous.

Police Code and Cipher Systems

With regard to cipher and code systems used by the police, S. stated that the general practice was to employ hand keys, originally plain and double playfair (Kastenschluesselverfahren) and latterly Rasterschluessel. The O.P. had some machines, perhaps twenty Enigma machines, but these were not very important for police purposes.

Assessment of Subject

SCHLAKE proved a poor source of information. His reticence may result from his concern not to involve himself as a war criminal or perhaps from the fact that he honestly did not know more than he revealed. He stated that as an administrative officer he did not know the details of operations carried on by his subordinates. It is not believed that further interrogation of above subject would be profitable.

/APPENDIX

TICOM/I-91

TOP SECRET

APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref No SAIC/PIR/179
16 Jul.45

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER
APO 758

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION REPORT

SOURCE: SCHLAKE, Robert K.H, GENMAJ (Brig Gen) of Regular Police, Chief of Communications in the Main Office of the ORDNUNGSPOLIZEI, Ministry of Interior

1. PERSONAL DATA

8 May 1893	Born in KARLSRUHE
1914	Completed junior college in BERLIN
1914-18	1st Lt in Signal Corps.
1919-33	Communications officer in Police Depts of BEUTEN, BRESLAU, and BERLIN.
1933-45	Chief of radio and communications in Ministry of Interior.

Subject joined the NSDAP in 1938 and the ALLGEMEINE SS in 1943, receiving a rank equivalent to his police rank, BRIF (Brig Gen).

1. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Source reported with the 40 members of the Southern Staff of the ORDNUNGSPOLIZEI to military authorities in REUTTER am TEGERNSEE 11 May 45 and was delivered by 307 CIC Det to SAIC on 25 May 45 on authority of G-2 Seventh Army. Documents: Police identification card, salary certificate, WEHRPASS, savings book, driver's license, birth certificate, stock and bond purchase receipts, list of officers in the NACHRICHTENVERBINDUNGSDIENST (officers serving with WEHRKREIS and other units on liaison and detached service), list of birthdays of friends and colleagues, list of personnel of the Southen Staff.

3. KNOWLEDGE BRIEF

a. Communications system of the Regular Police in Germany and occupied lands.

b. Personalities of Regular Police in BERLIN.

c. Radio intelligence and interception exercised by police in Germany.

4. INTERROGATION PLAN Interrogation will follow knowledge brief.

5. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Source has been interrogated in answer to police questionnaire of Twelfth Army Group, dated 4 Jun 45. (See Report Ref No SAIC/CIR/3,1 Jul 45). Recipients of this report are requested to submit special briefs of any subject upon which this source should be interrogated and to indicate the desired distribution of the resultant report.

Signed. PAUL KUBALA, Maj, MI
Commanding

Distribution "C"
plus American Embassy, Paris 1 copy
OSS Paris, 2 copies
L'Etat Major Defense Nationale, 1 copy

CONFIDENTIAL